




Overview and general information about the NWTF grant program.

- **Established in 1985**
 - Facilitated by MDA Staff

- **NWTF Funding**
 - Vehicle Registration Fee
 - Interest on \$10 Million Trust Fund
 - General Fund
 - Cooperative Forestry Funds
 - MDT Pass Through Funds

NOXIOUS WEED TRUST FUND



NWTF program operates under state statute, 80-7-801 through 821, MCA and administrative rules, 4.5.101 through 4.5.112, ARM.

- Original enabling legislation for NWTF program included a 1% herbicide surcharge on the sale of herbicides to fund the trust fund. Surcharge ended on July 31, 1992 when the permanent NWTF reached its original goal of \$2.5 million.
- Original funding for the NWTF grants program included a \$1,000,000 grant from the Montana Resource Indemnity Trust Fund [RIT].
- Half of the RIT funds started the permanent NWTF and half funded grants for the first two years of the program.
- 1987 Legislature increased funding for the grants program by enacting a \$.50 fee on each vehicle registered in MT.
- 1989 Legislature increased the weed vehicle fee to \$1.50 for each registered vehicle.
- 1999 Legislature added an additional \$2.25 (DOT non-restricted HWY Account) million to the Trust Fund.
- In 2005 HB 266 implemented the constitutional amendment passed in November 2004 and also clarified that any reverted monies go back to the Trust Fund.
- Reverted grant funds increased funding to permanent trust starting in FY-06.
- 2007 Legislature passed House Bill 2 to include a one time transfer of \$5,000,000 to the permanent Trust Fund with the addition of a one time only FTE for another grant coordinator position.
- In 2007 SB285 changed the \$1.50 collected on vehicle fees to 1.5% on vehicle fees.
- In 2008 the Permanent Trust reached \$10,000,000 million.

Funding Recipients:



Community
Groups



Tribes



Educators



Researchers



Counties

FUNDING RECIPIENTS:

Funding is available to:

Landowner / community groups
Tribes
Educators
Researchers
Counties

Collaborating Organizations:



Weed
District

University

County or
Tribe

Extension
Office

Conservation
District

COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS:

Grant applicants collaborate with an organization, such as:

County or Tribal Weed District
Extension Office
Conservation District
University

Organizations serve as the recipient for funding reimbursements from the NWTF.



TYPES OF GRANTS:

Emergency Grants – After fires, floods, finding of new invader weed

- Due by Nov. 1, 2016 (maximum of \$25,000 per application)

Special Co/Res - \$7,500 available each year to counties and 7 reservations. Can be used for weed related salaries, equipment, etc.

- Due by Nov. 1, 2016 (\$7,500 per County/Reservation each year)

MDT Funding – Awarded to each county - \$1,785 each year.

NWTF Grants – Research, Education/Planning, and Local Cooperative Projects.

- Due by Dec. 1, 2016 (maximum \$75,000 per application)

Education / Development Grants

- ☞ Planning
- ☞ Mapping
- ☞ Monitoring
- ☞ Education

Research Grants

- ☞ Chemical
- ☞ Non-Chemical
- ☞ Biological
- ☞ Integrated Weed Management





NWTF Grants

Education / Development Grants:

- Includes mapping, monitoring, planning and education
- Does not require matching funds – but beneficial to have cooperative effort
- Should promote public awareness and build partnerships

Coordinate with State Education Coordinator Shantell Frame-Martin for available materials, suggestions, etc. (ph# 444-9491)

Research Grants:

- Should **address land management needs, increase knowledge or improve aspects of weed management and effectively disseminate project results**
- May include chemical, non-chemical, or biological & integrated approaches to weed control
- Does not require matching funds, but in-kind or forgone indirect costs can be described

Biocontrol Projects: Coordinate mapping release sites, insect collection opportunities, with State Biocontrol Coordinator Melissa Maggio-Kassner (ph# 258-4223)

Both Education & Research projects need:

- A detailed plan of action
- Specific measurable and attainable objectives
- Specific plans for project evaluation

Local Cooperative Grants

- On the ground treatment in CWMA's
- Mapping, Biological, Grazing, Revegetation
- 50% cost-share for herbicide, commercial applicator and seed
- EA's required for NEW projects




NWTF Local Cooperative Grants:

- Provide on the ground treatment of noxious weeds
- Requires participation of at least 3 adjacent landowners

Project participants develop a cooperative weed management area, map noxious weeds in the project area, and develop long term weed control plans.

Local Cooperative grants:

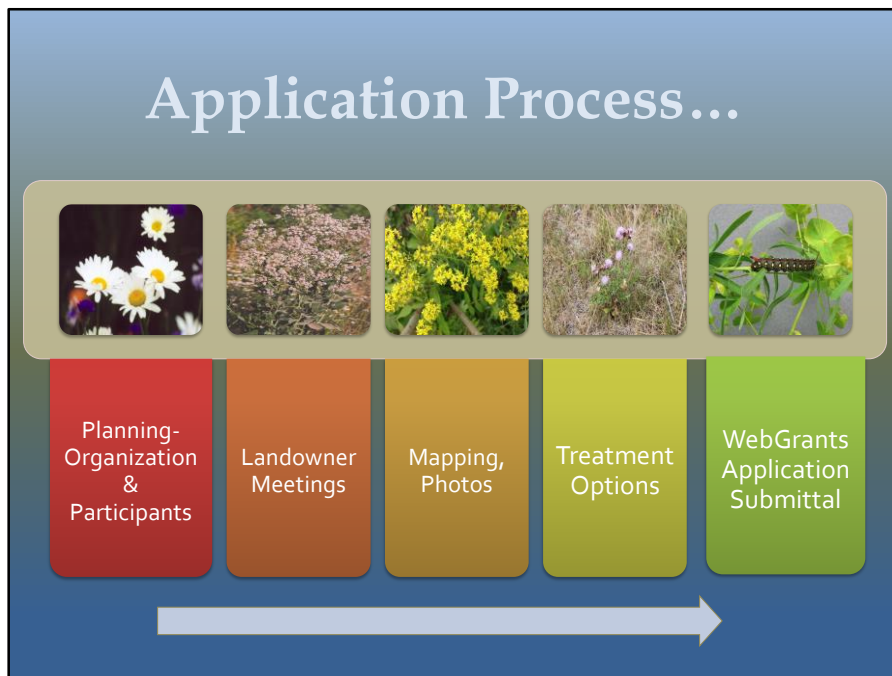
- provide up to 50% of herbicide cost - applied by landowners
- provide up to 50% of herbicide and application cost - by commercial applicators

Local Cooperative grants require a 50/50 match for herbicides, re-seeding, and commercial applicator costs.

Two types of Local Cooperative Applications – Continuing or New Project

Local Cooperative NEW application is used for first year grants – requires completing Environmental Assessment (EA) forms for the project area.

Work with State Education and/or State Biocontrol Coordinators for these aspects of local cooperative grants.



APPLICATION PROCESS...

Planning:

- Participant understanding of **Reimbursable grant program**
- **Participant commitment** – estimated acres, financial commitment, etc.
- Determine what **Organization will be the funding recipient** – organization will submit claims to MDA for reimbursement and disperse funds to the project participants.
- **Grant term** is 18 months, provides 2 seasons to complete activities. Application should be for activities planned to be completed in the first year of the project. Second season should be used only as a back-up in case of drought, etc.

Landowner meetings throughout project.

Weed mapping, photos.

Treatment Options: planning / cost estimates / landowner matching agreements

Specify herbicides for use in project - discuss with applicators

NWTF cannot cover costs for herbicides not approved in application and contract.

NWTF cannot cover costs for biocontrol insects.

IWM and educational components should be a part of all applications.

Applications are submitted electronically through WebGrants.

MDA is available to provide help and assist with questions.



Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council

10 Voting Members plus MDA Director

12 Agency Representatives

Council reviews and scores applications (hearings = approximately 100 applications).

Deliberates on funding recommendations for final approval from MDA Director.

Council attends week long grant hearings + 2 or more 1 day meetings each year.

Grant Hearings:

Applicants are notified of the date and time scheduled for their presentation (PowerPoint if desired) to the council.

Allotted 10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions from council.

Suggest bringing a copy of application for questions.

Competitive grant funding process

Council funding deliberations on Friday - Director has final approval.

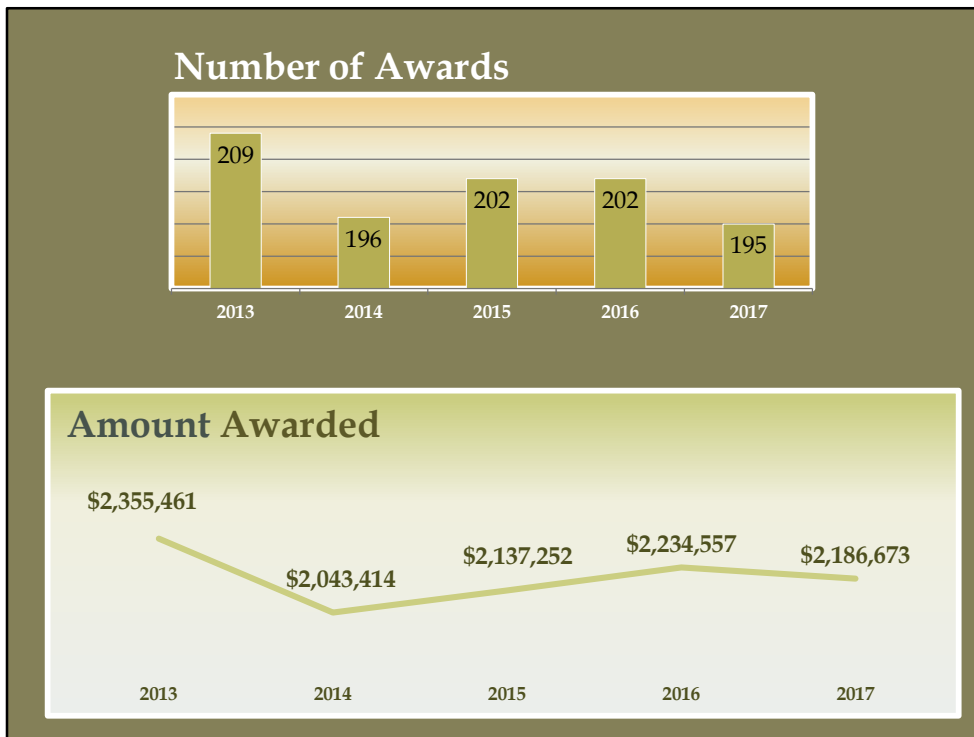
Funding letters –May receive partial funding, which requires application revisions.

Contracts:

Read thoroughly - Start date / Term date / Status report dates

Reimbursement is allowed only for project activities, herbicides, reseeding, etc. that are specified in the application and grant contract.

Call MDA for assistance if running into problems.



Figures includes:

- Special County /Reservation \$7,500 grants
- Emergency grants
- MDT pass through awards to counties
- NWTF grant hearing awards
- Re-awarded funds

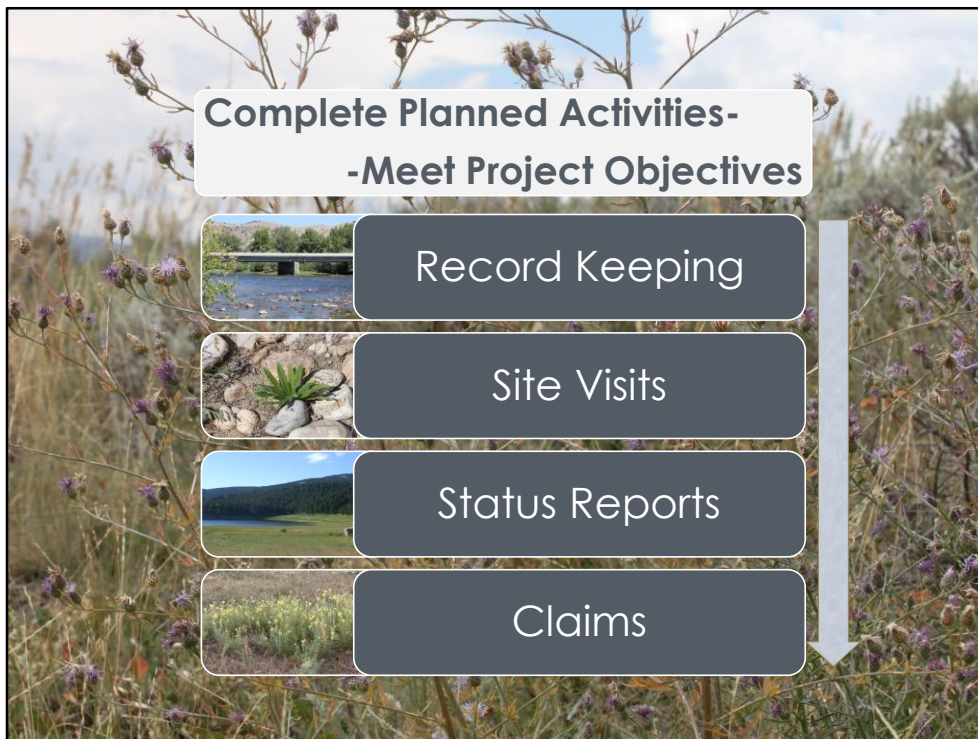
Number of Annual Awards

Average ~ 200 grants per year

Funding Amounts

Average ~ \$2 million awarded per year

(2013 high due to amount over 10 million being swept from NWTF for awards)



Once your grant is awarded... Grant Process

Complete the project activities – as outlined in application and grant contract.

Record keeping – Retain all spray records, invoices, etc. as outlined in contract (retain for 8 years).

Project related invoices are scanned and submitted with claims for reimbursement.

Site visits by MDA – MDA will arrange site visits to view project activities and to provide assistance if needed.

Status reports – Completed online, due April 15 and November 30th. Semi-annual and a final report.

Claims – Reimbursable Grant Program

Can only be reimbursed for activities and/or chemicals approved on application and grant contract.

Claims are submitted online, Local Cooperative projects use the Excel form (provided on claim) to itemize invoices. Attach receipts and invoices to claim.

MDA is available to assist ☺



Photo Points - Project Activity Photos

Great for presentation to council.

Before photos are needed for applications.

Before & After photos are needed for status reports.

Educational activities: Coordinate with State Education Coordinator Shantell Frame-Martin for available materials, suggestions, etc. (ph# 444-9491)

Biocontrol: Coordinate mapping release sites, insect collection opportunities with State Biocontrol Coordinator Melissa Maggio-Kassner (ph# 258-4223)

Start Off Right

- ◎ **Set the budget up correctly**
 - Appropriate categories
 - Correct amounts
 - 10% deviation allowed for budgeted categories
- ◎ **Communication between project coordinator and project participants**
 - Allowable expenses
 - Allowable herbicides
 - Required receipt documentation
- ◎ **Maintain accurate and complete records**

Start Off Right

Set the budget up correctly on your grant application

- Use the correct categories for your expenses – herbicides in herbicide section, etc.
- Estimate costs as closely as possible
- 10% deviation is allowed for categories that have a budget – cannot add new categories after grant approval.

Good communication with all project participants – everyone should know:

- What expenses are allowed for reimbursement
- What herbicides are allowed for reimbursement
- Requirements of receipts, photos, etc.

Maintain good records

Utilize the instructions on the MDA website

What can you be reimbursed for?

- Supplies and materials
- Travel
- Grazing
- Seed
- Re-seeding costs
- Herbicide
- Herbicide application costs

What can you be reimbursed for?

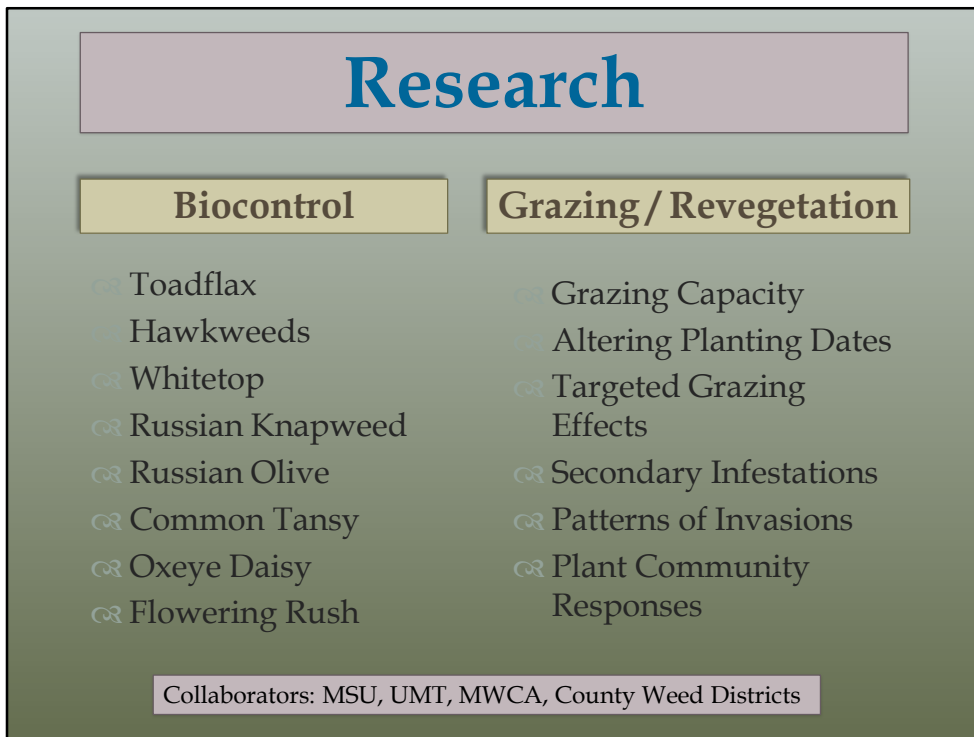
- **Approved expenses as shown on the grant contract and final budget.**
- **Expenses must occur within term dates of grant.**
- **Herbicide and/or applicator costs that were approved on the herbicide worksheet – specified by active ingredients.**
- **May submit claims at anytime during the grant - should be for \$500 or more.**

Project Successes



A snippet of past projects that have used the NWTF and IWM with great success!

Past and on-going projects that have found success using the NWTF and IWM techniques.



Efforts made through research and testing to find new and improved techniques to curb the spread of noxious weeds.

Most projects are done through one of the University systems, Non-profit organizations and some through the County Weed Districts

The most recent biocontrol projects include research and testing new agents that may help control

- Toadflax
- Hawkweeds
- Whitetop
- Russian Knapweed
- Russian Olive
- Common Tansy
- Oxeye Daisy
- Flowering Rush

Other research projects include plot testing and research on efficient and effective ways to use targeted grazing and revegetation as tools for integrative weed management.

Education / Development

Biocontrol Education

- ☞ Whitehall Insectary
- ☞ Lincoln Insectary
- ☞ Augusta Insectary
- ☞ Biocontrol Workshops

Public Weed Education

- ☞ Leave No Weeds
- ☞ MNWEC
- ☞ Fight Five
- ☞ Youth Restoration



Weed Management Tools

- ☞ Weed Coordinator Training
- ☞ EDDMapS West
- ☞ Weed ID & IWM Strategies



Collaborators: MWCA, County Weed Districts, MSU, UMT, WBWCP

There are many different methods of educating the public and weed community on weed management and control.

Most projects are completed by County Weed Districts, the Universities and other Non-Profit groups.

Recent Education Grants helped fund:

- Three insectaries in the State
- Biocontrol Workshops and Collection Days
- Education Campaigns including outreach to youth and school groups
- Weed coordinator training

Development grants include mapping, monitoring and planning different types of projects

- EDDMapS West
- Data analysis of field collections (National Heritage Program)
- Mapping and monitoring new infestations

Local Cooperatives

Central MT

- ☞ Lower Spring Creek, Fergus Co.
- ☞ Sapphire Village Whitetop, Judith Basin Co.
- ☞ Cottonwood Creek, Meagher Co.
- ☞ Musselshell River Corridor, Musselshell Co.

Western MT

- ☞ Oliver Point Sheep Project, BIA Flathead
- ☞ Roaring Lion Fire, Ravalli Co.
- ☞ Centennial Valley Noxious Weed Co-op, Beaverhead Co.
- ☞ Sanders Rush Skeletonweed, Sanders Co.

Local Cooperative Projects involve on-the-ground treatment of noxious weeds and...

- Require the participation of at least three adjacent landowners
- Require a committed dollar amount for the acres that will be treated
- Must support the County State Weed Management plans
- Include IWM techniques: Chemical Control, Cultural and Mechanical Control, Biological Control, Mapping, Education and Outreach

Recent Central Montana Grants

- Lincoln Snowmobile Trails
 - Ponderosa Snow Warriors- Volunteer group that started their weed program in 1996
 - Cover 500 miles of trail systems each summer both private and forest service land
 - Monitor for invaders, educate landowners, volunteers and kids at the "Natures Playground"
- Upper Musselshell E, C, & S
 - Use goats and sheep to graze leafy spurge and biocontrol agents to keep the plants in check
 - Public Education: Host the annual Montana Range Days, biocontrol workshop, "What's my Five" in schools
 - Mob grazing and herbicide treatment test plots

- Sweet Grass Hills
 - Landowners joined with BOR, BLM, DNRC and two County Weed Districts
 - Sheep to graze leafy spurge and release biocontrol agents
 - Use helicopter to spray large infestations of knapweed and spurge
 - Ag in the Classroom- noxious weed bumper sticker contest
- Oliver Point Sheep Project
 - Reducing leafy spurge and Dalmatian toadflax infestations with targeted grazing
 - Over 6,000 root boring flea beetles released this summer
 - Line transects and photo points to monitor and evaluate effectiveness
- Swan Valley Co-op
 - Over 34 landowners participate along with the National Forest, DNRC, Swan Ecosystem Center and the County Weed District
 - Developed the CWMA in 2006
 - Hold annual weed workshops to educate residents: weed ID, calibration, control and re-veg methods
 - Treat over 1400 acres and use native grass mixes to reseed
- Centennial Valley Noxious Weed Co-op
 - Cooperate with the Nature Conservancy to map the area and build a data base
 - Hold community spray days
 - Landowner pesticide training

Local Cooperatives

Eastern MT

- ☞ Quietus Road, Big Horn Co.
- ☞ Powder River Leafy Spurge, Custer Co.
- ☞ Prairie County Houndstongue, Prairie Co.

New Invaders

- ☞ Rush Skeletonweed, Lincoln Co., BIA Flathead, Ravalli Co.
- ☞ Dyer's Woad, Beaverhead Co.
- ☞ Tansy Ragwort, Lincoln Co.
- ☞ Blueweed, Ravalli Co.

Recent Central Montana Grants

- Stacey Area
 - Combating noxious weeds after two fire complexes devastated the county in 2012
 - Continuation of the efforts made with emergency funding from the NWTF
 - Use GPS and density monitoring squares to determine effectiveness of treatments
 - Educations and outreach has inspired other landowners to join the efforts
- Powder River Leafy Spurge
 - Project began in 2001 and now has 73 cooperators (66 landowners)
 - Use sheep to graze leafy spurge and more than 90 biocontrol releases made since the begining
 - Long time landowners assist in educating and mentoring new landowners in the area
- **New Invaders- Weed Task Forces**
 - Each taskforce works with state, federal and county agencies as well as landowners and landmanagers to stop "new invaders" from spreading to other parts of Montana
- Rush Skeletonweed

- Inventory, map, monitor and treat known Rush sites
- Educate and promote preventative measures and grazing management
- Dyer's Woad
 - Support the Dyer's Woad Task Force- statewide effort
 - Use detector dogs to locate plants
- Tansy Ragwort
 - Two projects, private and government groups, with one goal
 - Surveying, Mapping and Monitoring, chemical treatment and biocontrol agents
- Blueweed
 - Controlling the spread of blueweed on land and river
 - Stopping vectors, education of public, hand pulling and monitoring



DATES...

- Nov. 1st - Special Co/Reservation applications due
- Nov. 1st - Emergency applications due
- Nov. 30 & April 15th - Status reports due
- January 6th - NWTF applications due
- March 5th – 9th Grant Hearings
- Contract Return Date, Start & End Dates

FY 17 Special County / Reservation and Emergency applications - due November 1

NWTF applications for the 2017 grant hearings are due by December 1

Grant hearings: Feb. 27 – March 3, 2017
Wingate Inn, Helena, MT

Funding letters mailed asap after hearing deliberations and approval by MDA Director.

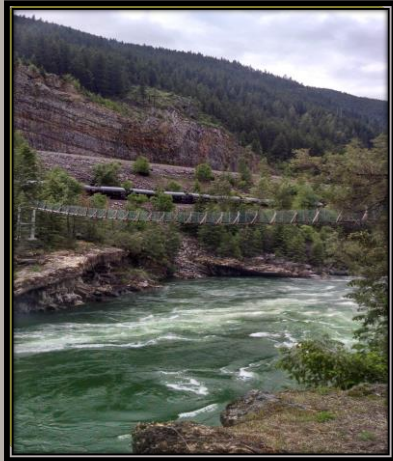
Contracts mailed for grantee signatures in April or May – note due date for contract return.

Contract start date is typically April 1 – review contract for exact date.

Contract end date is typically October 31 of the following calendar year (provides 18 months to complete project), review contract for exact date.

List of Important Dates can be found on MDA website www.agr.mt.gov

Questions?



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